



General Reevaluation Report for West Bank and Vicinity

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG®
Updated March 2022

Overview/Authorization

The authorization for the West Bank and Vicinity project, part of the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS), required it to be designed and constructed to defend against storm surge elevations associated with a storm that has a 1-percent chance of occurring in any given year. During construction of the system, earthen levees were constructed to meet 1-percent elevations for the year 2011 with an additional overbuild of up to 2 feet.

As with any earthen levee system in southeast Louisiana, the HSDRRS levees were expected to require lifts to account for future levee consolidation, land subsidence, and sea level rise. The authorization for construction of the system did not authorize future levee lifts required to sustain the 1-percent level of risk reduction over the long term.

The Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 authorized USACE to carry out measures needed to address consolidation, settlement, and sea level rise if the necessary work is determined to be technically feasible, environmentally acceptable, and economically justified. The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 provided appropriations to conduct the General Re-evaluation Report necessary to inform this determination. Today, the system provides the 1-percent level of risk reduction for the greater New Orleans area authorized by congress, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is fully confident in the system which was reinforced by results during the Hurricane Ida event. The project requires an extension or elimination of the construction authorization sunset in WRRDA 2014 Section 3017(e), currently set to expire June 2024.

Study Cost and Schedule

The West Bank and Vicinity General Re-evaluation Report was funded by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 with a cost of approximately \$3 million. The partnership agreement to begin the study was signed in October 2018 with a three-year timeline. The study was completed within budget and schedule, and the Director's Report signed on December 16, 2022.

The footprint of the recommended project is essentially the same as existing, with the addition of several miles of co-located levees along the Mississippi River. This plan has a total first cost of \$663 million, a Benefit Cost Ratio of 5.1 and net benefits of \$72 million annually. Appropriations are required to proceed and initiate Planning, Engineering, and Design.

For More Information: <https://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/About/Projects/BBA-2018/studies/WBV-GRR/>

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – New Orleans District
7400 Leake Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70118 | www.mvn.usace.army.mil
Visit the following links to follow us on Facebook and Twitter
<https://www.facebook.com/usacenola/>
www.twitter.com/teamneworleans

